

Re: Proceeding # 02-306

We at the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce strive to promote the economic vitality and quality of life within the greater Sacramento region, and we encourage sound public policy to help us accomplish this goal. One such policy is competition in the long distance market in the telecommunications industry.

I strongly urge the FCC to approve SBC Pacific Bell's application to provide long distance service. It is up to the FCC to enact policies and regulations that add to competition, not hinder it. In order to do this, the market must be open to competitors.

Americans in 23 other states are already benefiting from increased telecommunications competition. Our 2500+ members of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce – and Californians as a whole – should be next.

We hope you will support our long-standing mission to create a business-friendly environment and allow SBC Pacific Bell to compete for long distance.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matt Mahood
CEO, Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce